

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINGST 02780 172036Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

NIC-01 AID-20 PC-04 OPR-02 RSR-01 /117 W

----- 116753

P 172000Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2667

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 2780

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS JM

SUBJECT: POLICE AND SOLDIERS CLASH

1. VIOLENT CLASHES IN KINGSTON AND ELSEWHERE BETWEEN POLICEMEN AND OFF-DUTY MEMBERS OF THE JAMAICA DEFENCE FORCE (JDF) HAVE CAUSED CONCERN IN OFFICIAL JAMAICAN CIRCLES AND RECEIVED WIDESPREAD COVERAGE IN THE NEWS MEDIA. JDF AND POLICE OFFICIALS HAVE LAUNCHED INVESTIGATIONS TO DETERMINE THE CAUSES OF THE CLASHES AND DEVELOP A COORDINATED POLICY THAT WILL PREVENT RECURRENCES. IN AN ATTEMPT TO STEM THE FEUD, THE JDF HAS CONFINED ALL UNMARRIED ENLSITED MEN TO UP PARK CAMP

2. TENSIONS WERE TRIGGERED ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 12, WHEN AN OFF-DUTY SOLDIER RESISTED SEARCH BY A POLICEMAN DURING A JOINT POLICE/MILITARY SEARCH FOR FIREARMS AT A KINGSTON CINCEMA. A MELEE ENSUED, RESULTING IN GUNFIRE AND INJURIES TO SOLDIERS, POLICE AND CIVILIANS. THE NEXT TWO NIGHTS PRODUCED ASSAULTS BY GROUPS OF OFF-DUTY SOLDIERS UPON POLICEMEN. A CLIMAX WAS REACHED ON AUGUST 15, WHEN SOLDIERS APPARENTLY ATTEMPTED TO SET FIRE TO HARMON BARRACKS, HOME OF THE ELITE POLICE MOBILE RESERVE, THE UNIT WHICH HAS BEEN PARTICIPATING IN THE JOINT POLICE/MILITARY OPERATIONS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINGST 02780 172036Z

3. THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF THE CLASHES APPEARS TO BE

DISSATISFACTION AMONG THE RANKS OF THE JDF OVER HAVING TO HELP THE POLICE PERFORM THEIR FUNCTION. SUPPORTING THIS DISSATISFACTION IS CONCERN AT HIGHER JDF LEVELS OVER THE USE OF THE JDF IN THE JOINT OPERATIONS, AN APPARENT VIOLATION OF THE JAMAICAN CONSTITUTION, WHICH SPECIFIES THAT THE JDF IS TO BE EMPLOYED IN CIVIL OPERATIONS ONLY AFTER A STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY HAS BEEN DECLARED. THE CRUX OF THE PROBLEM, HOWEVER, LIES IN THE INABILITY OF THE POLICE FORCE, WITH ITS PRESENT PERSONNEL, TRAINING, AND EQUIPMENT, TO COPE WITH RAMPANT CRIMINAL ELEMENTS.

4. JOINT POLICE/MILITARY OPERATIONS SUSPENDED EARLIER, HAVE NOW BEEN RESUMED. THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION, HOWEVER, IS UNDERSCORED BY UNOFFICIAL REPORTS FROM HIGH POLICE OFFICIALS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY. NATIONAL EMERGENCY HAS ONLY BEEN DECLARED ONCE PREVIOUSLY SINCE INDEPENDENCE. THIS OCCURRED IN 1966 IN RESPONSE TO A CRIME WAVE SIMILAR TO THE CURRENT ONE. HEWITT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KINGST02780
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS HEWITT
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730832/aaaaawzj.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <30-Jan-2002 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLICE AND SOLDIERS CLASH
TAGS: PINS, JM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005